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BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE SEVEN DWARFS;
OR, HARK! HEAR! AND THE WORLD OF WONDER.BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—LIONESS OF THE
NORTH—TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.ROOTH'S THEATRE, 23d St., between 8th and 9th sts.—
ROMEO AND JULIET.NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE BURLINQUE EX-
TRAORDINAIRE OF THE FORTY THIEVES.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
SCHOOL.BROOKLYN THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—PERFEC-
TION—MUCH ADO ABOUT A MERCHANT OF VENICE.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN
OPERA.—TROMBONE.OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—HUMPHY DUMPTY,
WITH NEW FEATERS.WOODS MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and
Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performance.WALKERLEY THEATRE, 7th Broadway.—ELIZA HOLLY'S
BURLINQUE COMPANY.THEATRE COMIQUE, 34 Broadway.—COMIC SKETCHES
AND LIVING STATUES.—FLETO.THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE HOUSE
MADE, &c.MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
SCHOOL.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 93 Broadway.—ETHIO-
PIAN ENTERTAINMENTS—SING OF THE BLONDES.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 10th
street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, &c.TOMY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 20 Bowery.—COMIC
VOLANTE, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN
AND GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENT.STREINWALL HALL, Fourteenth street.—THE DAVENPORT
BROTHERS.HOLLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOLLEY'S
MINSTRELS—THE HARTED WIG MAKER, &c.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 6th Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Tuesday, March 23, 1869.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated March 22.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland announced in the
House of Commons yesterday that the government
did not intend to extend pardons to any other Pon-
tians now in prison. The debate on the Irish Church
question was resumed.A demonstration in favor of free trade has taken
place in Barcelona, Spain.The Hungarian elections so far have resulted in
the success of the Deak party.Photiadis Bey has gone to Athens to resume his
duties as Turkish Minister.

Paraguay.

Senhor Paranhos, the Brazilian Minister of Foreign
Affairs, has gone to Asuncion to establish a pro-
visional government. The war news is unim-
portant.

Cuba.

The excitement in Havana was intense after the
Fernando Po prisoners had sailed, and four or five
persons were shot. One Cuban, who cried "Viva
Céspedes," was court-martialed, sentenced to death
and shot at dusk. The Captain General had issued a
conciliatory address to the people. Twenty-five in-
surgents in Trinidad had been captured and shot.Among them Mr. Schmidt, a late American consul.
General Henningsen, of Nicaraguan fame, has
landed with an expeditionary force from Charleston,
composed mostly of former federal and rebel soldiers.The representative of the Cuban provisional gov-
ernment is expected to arrive in Washington to-day.Dr. Betances, an American citizen, was recently
banished from the island of St. Thomas, at the re-
quest of the Captain General of Porto Rico, on the
plea that he was engaged in organizing expeditions
against Spanish colonies. Passports were furnished
him, but he refused to leave, claiming his right as
an American citizen to stay where he pleased, and the
American Consul supported him in his action. Con-
siderable excitement has grown out of the matter.

Hayti.

The dates from Hayti are to the 11th inst. Sainve
has been deposed, with a loss of 100 men and eight
pieces of artillery. His forces were besieging
Jacmel while the insurgents were besieging Gon-
nave. Two hundred merchants and others had been
arrested at Port-au-Prince and sent to Gonave to
reinforce the garrison. A convention has been
agreed upon with France for the payment of the
money due her, and her vessels are to be allowed
passage through the blockade after inspection at a
loyal port.

Venezuela.

The republic is quiet, an unimportant rising at
Coro having been promptly quelled. The yellow
fever prevails at Caracas.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday an election for officers was
held, resulting as foreshadowed by the recent re-
publican caucus—John R. French, Sergeant-at-
Arms; John M. Morris, Executive Clerk; and Almon M.
Clapp, Congressional Printer. The resolution to con-
sider a clerical omission in the Civil Appropriation bill
relative to stockholders in bonded warehouses was
called up and agreed to without much discussion.The bill to repeal the Tenure of Office act was called
up and postponed. The bill to incorporate the Na-
tional Junction Railway Company was passed. The
bill to amend the judicial system was called up,
but without action upon it the Senate adjourned.In the House, under the usual Monday call
of States, bills were introduced and referred to pro-
vide for a gradual resumption of specie payment; to
remove obstructions from East river; for the election
of a delegate in Congress from the District of
Columbia; and to divide the State of Texas. A
resolution to rule out all contestants for seats
without further action than the report of
the committee, in case such contestants are
unable to take the test oath, was adopted under a
suspension of the rules. Another bill was in-
troduced providing that in elections for Congressmen
all votes cast for a candidate who cannot take the
test oath shall be held null and void, and the candi-
date receiving the next highest number of votes
shall be entitled to the seat. It was made a special
order for Wednesday. Mr. Lawrence offered a re-
solution to recall the resolution now before Congress
for an adjournment on Friday. Mr. Lawrence stated
that there was much important legislation to be
performed, and Mr. Butler agreed that the Senate
ought to recall the resolution so that the Senate
would not be able to adjourn without passing the
bill to repeal the Tenure of Office act. After a gen-
eral debate the resolution was laid on the table and
the House soon after adjourned.A caucus of republican Senators was held during
the day on the Tenure of Office law, which was some-
what stormy. It resulted, however, in agreeing to
refer the bill back to the Judiciary Committee, with
the understanding that the first and second sections
be stricken out and the third section be modified.

The Legislature.

Bills were introduced in the Senate yesterday
amending the Excise laws of the State and two
others of importance. A bill was introduced rela-
tive to the State Comptroller of Charities. The
bill amending the Metropolitan Excise law was re-
committed to the committee to which it was origi-
nally referred.In the Assembly several bills of minor importance
were passed. The annual report on criminal statis-
tics and the report of quarantine jurisdiction were
presented. Resolutions relative to the price of salt
and to the West Albany cattle yard were adopted.

The City.

The Police Commissioners yesterday tried Captain
Young, of the detective force, on the charges pro-
ferred by the clerk, Mr. Hawley. Young was notpresent at the trial, nor was he represented by counsel
and made no response to the resolution of the
Board. Superintendent Kennedy and Detective
Irving gave their testimony. The Board then voted
that Captain Young be dismissed from the depart-
ment.Several passengers on board of the ship James
Foster, Jr., made affidavits yesterday before Com-
missioner Jones, of Brooklyn, in which they charged
the carpenter with the murder of two passengers
and the boatman with the murder of a seaman.
They also allege that other officers of the ship
were implicated in these murders. The first mate
of the ship died at his residence in Brooklyn on Sun-
day evening.Mr. Henry Bergh had up another turtle case in the
Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday, and one
Charles Smith, who was charged with cruelty to the
"animals," was held to answer in the sum of \$300.
At the Essex Market Police Court an agent of Mr.
Bergh's society brought up a man who was drag-
ging along a bear by a ring in the nose. The bear
was in court. The man was compelled to give bail
in \$300 to answer.The Inman line steamship Kangaroo, Captain
Hilcomb, will sail at one P. M. to-day from pier 45
North river for Queenstown and Liverpool, calling
at Halifax, N. S., to land and receive mails and pas-
sengers. Who sails by her will close at the Post
Office at twelve M.The Hamburg-American Packet Company's steam-
ship Germania, Captain Schwenen, will leave Ho-
boken at two P. M. to-day for Southampton and
Hamburg. The mails will close at the Post Office at
twelve M.The United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Com-
pany's steamer Mississippi, Captain Slocum, will
leave pier 43 North river at three P. M. to-day
for St. Thomas, Para, Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio
Janeiro.The steamer Charleston, Captain Berry, will sail
at three P. M. to-day from pier No. 4 North river for
Charleston, S. C.The stock market yesterday was excited over a
further decline in New York Central and Pacific
Rail. Gold was firmer, closing finally at 131½.In beef cattle yesterday there was a tolerably
active demand, and with only moderate offerings
the market was steady, the sales being at 16½c. a
17½c. for prime and extra, 15½c. a 16½c. for fair to
good, and 14c. a 15c. for inferior to ordinary. Milch
cows were quiet but unchanged in value, extras
being quoted at \$100 a \$125 each, prime at \$90 a
\$95, fair to good at \$75 a \$85, and inferior to com-
mon at \$45 a \$70. Veal calves were moderately
sought after at about former prices, prime and
extra selling at 12c. a 13c., common to good at
11c. a 12c., and inferior at 10c. a 11c. Sheep
were only in moderate supply, and the demand
being fair prices were steady at 9c. a 9½c. for
extra, 8c. a 8½c. for prime and extra, 7½c. for in-
ferior to good. Swine were in slow demand, and with
fair arrivals the market was heavy, at 10½c. a
11½c. for common to prime.Premier Arrivals in the City.
Judge H. A. Nelson, of Poughkeepsie, and Erasmus
Colma, of Hartford, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.J. Warren Grigsby, of Kentucky, and H. A. Weber,
of New Orleans, are at the New York Hotel.Governor Burnside, of Rhode Island; Thomas H.
Clark, of Philadelphia; W. M. Carpenter, of New
York, and Dr. H. Richards, of Boston, are at the
Fifth Avenue Hotel.W. M. Sledge, of Galveston, Texas; A. M. Peyton,
of Virginia, and W. P. Becker, of Cincinnati, are at
the Malby House.Captain B. H. Chadbourne, of Chicago; Captain H.
C. Mahurin, of San Francisco, and George Costello,
of Wisconsin, are at the St. Charles Hotel.T. C. Jefferies, of Texas; Samuel D. Burdock, of
Philadelphia; Paymaster Giraud, of the United
States Navy; and George Higgins, of Montana, are at
the Metropolitan Hotel.C. M. Ford, of Hartford; E. Thompson Gale, of
Troy; W. W. Fuller and Henry Peters, of Halifax,
and Paymaster Watson, of the United States Navy,
are at the Hoffman House.Captain James Ferris, of New York; Dr. Eldridge,
of St. Louis; E. M. Young, of Baltimore, and Samuel
G. Landis, of Madison, Ohio, are at the St. Julien
Hotel.Congress and the President—The Tenure
of Office Law.They had yesterday at Washington a Sena-
torial republican caucus on the Tenure of
Office law. (See our despatches on the sub-
ject.) The difficulty between Congress and the
President on this question has thus been
reduced to the alternative of a repeal or sus-
pension of the obnoxious statute, the suspen-
sionists having the advantage ground from the
caucus. General Grant says: "I can do
nothing toward a thorough reorganization of
the machinery of the government until this law is
repealed." The House of Representatives
responds, "Very good," and passes the bill of
repeal; but the radical leaders of the Senate
par excellence say that the law is a wise and
beneficent law, and should not be abolished,
but rather modified or suspended for the ben-
efit of the present administration and of the
party office-seekers clamorous and impatient
for a general division of the spoils.But the simple truth is that the radical lead-
ers of the Senate do not like to relinquish the
power they hold under this law over the dis-
tribution of the Executive patronage. Repeal
the law and the office-holder removed by the
President is gone, while under the law the re-
moval is subject to the concurrence of the
Senate. The law was passed to head off Andy
Johnson. In his no-quarter conflict with Con-
gress he had commenced "the slaughter of the
innocents" of the radical party in office, and
perhaps he would have made a clean job of it
but for the effective check of this Tenure of
Office law. At last, driven to desperation, he
undertook, in the case of Stanton, to fight the
law itself, but only to find himself caught in
the trap of impeachment, and that the unsat-
isfactory Secretary he had ordered to leave was
fastened upon him in spite of himself by the
will of the Senate.General Grant, standing by the law, recog-
nized the right of possession of the War Office
as belonging to Stanton, and, still standing by
the law, the General says he cannot undertake
to any extent the removal of office-holders ap-
pointed "by and with the advice and consent
of the Senate." In short, the Senate must
consent to the removal of this law before he
can venture upon anything like a general sys-
tem of removals from office. But the radical
leaders of the Senate say this is asking too
much. If General Grant intends to act in
good faith as the grand almoner of the repub-
lican party he must feel convinced that there
will be no difficulty with the Senate in the
matter of his removals from office. Why, then,
is he so urgent in his demand for the repeal
of this law? It must be because he has
a policy of his own to play, like Johnson, and,
accordingly, wishes this impediment removed.Should the Senate, then, consent that the man
shall become the master? The answer of the
Senate radical faction, thus reasoning, would
be "No," and very promptly, too, but for the
pressure of the House and the Cabinet, and
the clamor of the office-seekers in their appeals
for the untying of the President's hands.Pushed to the wall, the anti-repealers pro-
pose the legislative absurdity of a temporary
suspension of the law, or a repeal for a
limited number of months or years. In any
event these champions of this office-holders'
protective law wish to hold it as a safety checkagainst the next administration. Otherwise,
if we have an opposition President in
1872 the massacre of the republicans in
office in 1873 will be dreadful to behold,
and unconstrained rebels and copperheads,
fattening and rioting upon the Treasury,
may raise the confusion of Babel and a reign
of anarchy through the length and breadth of
the land. This is begging the question on a
remote contingency, and it is a contemptible
plea for the baldest absurdity—the suspension
of a law under the present administration to
come into force again under the next. The
two houses, with as much right and reason as
in this case, might pass a law providing that
in the event of an opposition President next
time no republican in office shall be removed
except with the concurrence of the Senate by
a two-thirds vote.As we believe it, the object of General Grant
in the repeal of this office-holders' law is to
be free to carry out in his removals the work
of "retrenchment and reform." Under the
law he is not certain whether the removal of
that or that man will be consented to by the
Senate, and he may entertain reasonable
doubts of his power, through the consent of
the Senate, to reach the whiskey rings or any
other rings of experts in the lucrative profes-
sion of Treasury plunderers. As to the
clamor of the office-seekers, it is only the howl-
ing of a pack of wolves on the trail of their
prey. Their hunger has nothing to do with
the real merits of the question. The law which
General Grant desires repealed is an unjust
and outrageous law—a law which invades the
admitted rights and usages of his office from
Washington down to Johnson, and it was a
mean proceeding even as a check upon John-
son. It ought to be repealed absolutely; for
it has operated only to protect rogues in office,
while reducing the President to a mere auto-
matum, powerless to do anything without the
advice and consent of the Senate. The law is
full of mischief, squabbles, complications and
dangers, but while it remains in force the
policy of enforcing it to the letter is the true
policy for General Grant.

Our Legation in Spain.

The great importance of the questions grow-
ing out of the present struggle in Cuba makes
it urgent upon the new administration to see
that our interests in Spain are competently
handled and looked after, and our legation to
Madrid should, therefore, be put in the best
possible condition, with a live and bold repre-
sentative of the ideas of the President at the
head of it. At the moment when least ex-
pected some question may be sprung by the
course of events which will require immediate
but judicious handling, and Minister Hale, who
has been now for some years in Europe, can
hardly be in such thorough rapport with the
administration as our needs require. Be-
sides, the quarrel which has so long existed
between himself and the Secretary of Legation
has in a large degree diminished the moral
power of the mission and created the neces-
sity for the infusion of new blood into it. A
new secretary has been recently appointed,
but it cannot be claimed that he shall inspire
the head of the legation with the new ideas
which have germinated here in the past six
months, and which the fires of the Cuba revo-
lution are ripening in the minds of the Ameri-
can people. The importance of the questions
pressing upon us require a first class man in
Madrid, and we hope President Grant will
soon give the matter his personal attention.BUILDERS OBSTRUCTING THE PUBLIC
STREETS.—The complaint which we else-
where publish, under this heading, is equally
strong and reasonable. It might be urged
against the builders along many other thorough-
fares, as well as against those along Fifth
avenue, between Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth
streets. But within the limits designated by
the complainant the nuisance is patent to all
passengers, on foot or on wheels, through the
most popular avenue of the city. The atten-
tion of the Mayor, the District Attorney and
the Street Commissioner may well be called to
this growing evil. There is no authority that
can grant permission to a citizen to encumber
with building material and debris the public
streets, which are exclusively devoted by law
to the use of the travelling public. The pro-
visions expressly made against these disagree-
able and dangerous obstructions should be
rigidly enforced. They should be removed as
summarily as "the little temple at the foot of
the park." An effectual raid upon them would
be a more honorable triumph than any that
could be won by upsetting the stands of all the
poor apple women in Iowa.GETTING UGLY.—The South. Don't make a
row about a few cabbages.THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE.—In
another column we give, in a letter from
Coxes, some further intimation of what
yachtmen in England are doing to improve
the sport of the season. We hail with pecu-
liar pleasure the movement for a grand inter-
national race. Englishmen in this movement
present themselves as disposed to meet the
yachtmen of the world on good, many terms,
and to put their reputation and their claims as
builders and sailors up to that best of all settle-
ments—a practical test. Judging from the
circular of the Royal Albert Club, our cousins
across the sea mean to do the honors right
handsomely; and of all places in the world
British waters will be the place for yachtmen
this year.GENERAL AGENT OF THE NEW YORK ASSO-
CIATED PRESS.—We protest against the action
of the General Agent of the Associated Press
when he steps out of his line of duty and
endeavors to manage affairs in the interest of
any of the members of the association which
may be detrimental to some of the other mem-
bers. His duty is to work for the interest of
all, and not for one or two of the associates.
He has engaged to attend to without interfering
with matters which do not concern the Asso-
ciated Press as a body.WAIT UNTIL HE DOES.—The Mobile Register
says it is all very well for President Grant
to offer political position to General Long-
street, but "we would like to see him offer
the same to General Lee," or General some-
body else. Just so. As the old maid in a
New England village said to a gallant who
had been rejected by the belle of the place—
"I'd like to see him make such an offer to me,
that I would."

The Union Pacific Railroad King.

It is a fact—lamentable, perhaps, but no less
a fact—that the pioneers of civilization, the
advance guard, are usually a set of robbers.
Rough riding and stealing are their vocation.
Perhaps it is one of those immutable laws
which the philosophers say exist in the es-
sence of things, and therefore the civilized
world accepts the fact and becomes recon-
ciled to it. In the main, possibly, it turns out
to be a good investment, paying well in the
end through the comforts and advantages of
civilized life, the increased facilities for travel
and trade and the augmented value of every
man's possessions. The Union Pacific Rail-
road managers are among the pioneers of civil-
ization. They are rushing a railroad march
across a thousand miles of mountain and
desert, and, if we may believe recent revela-
tions before the courts, they are doing it with
all the privileges and perquisites of pioneers.We have endeavored to fathom the testi-
mony in the recent case of Fisk against the
Union Pacific Railroad Company, and to com-
prehend where the money advanced by the
public on the government and first mortgage
bonds goes to; but for the life of us we cannot
comprehend it. Not that there are so many peo-
ple in the ring, but they assume such protean
forms. Sometimes it is the Railroad Board
that is before us, then it is the Credit Mo-
biliier, and then again each is trustee for
something or body that does not appear, and
they change so rapidly that we become exceed-
ingly puzzled. When there is any money to be
distributed all of the corporations and every
board is there; but when the Court wishes
to ask a few questions straightway some one
of them disappears—the Credit Mobiliier, for
instance—and yet no person has moved.It is pretty evident, however, that the man-
agers of the company and the ring engaged in
building the road are one and the same set.
This appears from the testimony of Mr. Durant,
and we have one piece of advice to give the
gentlemen interested. The country expects
from you a good, practicable railroad to the
Pacific, which will carry passengers and trade
safely and expeditiously, and which will be as
durable as the usual constructions for railroad
purposes. For this large sum of money are
entrusted to you, and not for the purpose of
building a sham road and putting the money in
your own pockets. It is estimated that you
receive very nearly sixty thousand dollars a
mile and vast tracts of land; yet to-day come
to us the most lamentable complaints from the
California passengers in regard to the condi-
tion of the roadway and cars, and the deport-
ment of your employes and those of the tele-
graph line. We hope Fisk, Jr., will continue
his efforts to bring to the public view the
rights and the wrongs of this railroad ring,
that justice may be done.

Army Changes.

An attempt is on foot to make some
political capital out of certain phases of
General Sherman's vigorous army adminis-
tration. We hear of astonishing sympathy
for this officer who is sent to "exile" on the
Plains, or for that one who is mustered out,
and altogether that the movement of regiments
from one place to another is a very
suspicious and expensive piece of tyranny.
It was acknowledged on all hands that our
army was too large for a time of peace, and
in cutting down an army we suppose some-
body must be cut out of it. Is there an officer
left in who is not a faithful and good soldier?
We doubt it. If, then, any that are in had
been mustered out in the change there would
have been the same cause of clamor from their
direction as there is now on behalf of the
many gallant men left without places. Other-
wise Sherman is doing with the army just
what Porter justly does with the navy. In
both services there are poets that are pleasant
and poets that are not pleasant. Shall one set
of officers always have the rough and another
always the smooth? Porter changes men
from the Mediterranean to the West Indies
and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to equal-
ize what there may be of hardship and
what there may be of the agreeable in duty.
It is the same in the army. Some officers
would desire to be always in the luxury of the
Crescent City, or to enjoy the edible and other
delights of Baltimore, or to forget all else in the
varied dissipations of our city; but for this
others must live the neighbor of the Indians,
share his fare practically, lead a miserable life
of frontier, with even an exceedingly small
chance for glory. That would be unjust, and
to prevent such injustice Sherman moves the
army to and fro between all the points; and
generous men who have been having a good
time on the pleasant posts feel that it would
be ill-natured to grumble now at harder ones.SOMETHING NEW.—An exchange remarks
that the radicals have taken Grant down to
the water, but he won't drink. It was differ-
ent at Vicksburg and Appomattox.MARRYING A PRINCE.—That is a very pretty
little story of romance and love that comes to
us from so unlikely a place as the Jefferson
Market Police Court. We hope the romance
and fidelity will hold out to the end; but these
prices are slippery fellows, and it is not to be
forgotten that this marriage, very good in this
country, is no marriage at all in the country
in which the prince is at home. Miss Patter-
son found the misery of that. Her husband,
however, was a Bonaparte, and we suppose he
forgot his early ardor. This prince is a
Bourbon, and as the Bourbons "forget noth-
ing" there may be more hope."THE PRESENT ORDER OF THINGS" is a
favorite topic of discussion in our Southern
exchanges. "A new order of dances," "a
new shuffle," "a new deal" will be next in
order.THE UNKINDER CUT OF ALL.—A paper
called the American Rescue—more properly
Russia—published in Shelbyville, Tenn.,
says, speaking of General Grant, the unkind-
est cut of all was "that stick out from the bat-
tle field of Shiloh and presented to General
Grant by an office-seeker. If General Buell
is considered good authority, Grant 'cut a
stick' on that memorable occasion that needs
nothing to refresh his memory." He probably
cut a better one from a sour apple tree in an
orchard near Appomattox.THE TWO ENVOYS.—Señor Roberts has ar-
rived in Washington as special envoy from
Spain. Now, as the French might say in
New York vernacular, "Look out for le muss."The Railroad Lobby in the State Legisla-
ture.The Legislature at Albany and the lobby
in and about it have become so notorious for
corruption that the people are apt to pass
with little notice the most astounding revela-
tions. This seems to be the case with the
developments made by the select committee
to investigate the charges of improper in-
fluence in the Senate last year regarding rail-
road legislation, when what is known as the
"Erie bill" was up, and when an act was
passed relating to the Erie, New York Central,
Hudson River and Harlem Railway companies.
People shrug their shoulders with despair, if
not with indifference, whenever corruption at
Albany is mentioned, regarding it as a thing
of such ordinary occurrence, as a matter of
course, about which it is useless to trouble
themselves. To such a pass have we come;
to such a frightful state of demoralization have
our legislators, under the influence of the
lobby, arrived. But if all public virtue be not
lost it may be useful to call attention to the
action of this investigating committee and the
facts it developed.There is no doubt that half a million of dol-
lars or more was used corruptly in the great
contest last session between the friends and
opponents of the "Erie bill" referred to. The
committee, in summing up the evidence, says,
"large sums of money were expended for cor-
rupt purposes by parties interested in legisla-
tion regarding railways during the session of
1868." And, again, "lobbyists were thus en-
riched, and in some cases received money on
the false pretences that the votes of Sena-
tors were thereby to be influenced." Mr.
Drew, the treasurer of the Erie Railroad, tes-
tified that Mr. Eldridge, the president, drew
five hundred thousand dollars out of the treas-
ury before the session of the Legislature,
which was charged on the books of the com-
pany to Mr. Eldridge individually, and which
had not been accounted for when he retired
from the office of treasurer. This money was
drawn ostensibly for purposes of litigation,
which litigation meant, no doubt, influencing
the lobby and members of the Legislature. It
is clear, as the committee says, that large
sums of money did come from the treasury of
the Erie Railway Company, which were ex-
pended for some purpose in Albany for which
no vouchers seem to have been filed in the
office of the company. The objects of the ex-
penditures cannot be learned from the books
of the company. Mr. Eldridge could not be
got before the committee to testify on this in-
teresting point, and though invited by letter to
appear he took no notice of the invitation.The lobby evidently got a large slice, and
one man, it is said, took a hundred thousand
dollars from the Erie party and seventy thou-
sand from the opposing Vanderbilt party for
the purpose ostensibly of influencing legisla-
tion. This is much the same game as was
played in the Morgan and Fenton Senatorial
contest—taking money from one and voting for
the other. Of course this gentleman found it
inconvenient to answer the questions of the
committee and made his way to a more con-
genial climate in the South. It was said that
a portion of this money was for use among the
newspaper lobby men, but the committee could
not get at the facts; nor could it trace any of
it to the hands of Senators. In fact, the com-
mittee complains of its inability to get evi-
dence or to find out what became of the money.
Some of the members of the press made a
great noise about the corruption going on, but
muddled the matter so much that when brought
to the test they could prove nothing. This was
the case with Greeley particularly. He had
made direct charges of corrupt practices, but
fizzled out completely when brought on the
stand to testify. While there is no doubt of
the fact that vast sums of money were cor-
ruptly used the committee failed to fix the
guilt upon parties or to bring any one to
justice. Vice and corruption seem to be un-
avoidable in the construction and management
of railroads. It is the price the country has
to pay for these great improvements. But it
is to be hoped we have reached the limit and
that something will be done by the national
and State Legislatures to prevent the further
growth of the evil.The Venality of the Ring Conspirators at
Albany.We publish elsewhere some astounding
developments concerning the jobbing associa-
tions of the Board of Education in this city. It
will be seen that even the institutions of learning,
so necessary for the cultivation of virtue and
intelligence and for preservation of law and
order, have not escaped the rapacity of those
infamous rings of jobbing porters whose
policy it has been to infest and curse every
department of the city government for many
years past. During the past six years the
enormous sum of fourteen millions of dollars
has been expended by the Board upon pre-
tence of educating the youth in this city. This
year the sum asked for from the Legislature
for the same purpose is the modest one of
three million one hundred and fifty thousand
dollars—or in the aggregate for the next six
years, calculating that the amount shall be
augmented from year to year in the same pro-
portion as it has been for the last six years, we
have the vast sum of twenty-five or thirty
millions, for which our citizens are to be taxed,
for educational purposes alone. The state-
ment to which we refer gives a few of the items
in detail embraced in this enormous expendi-
ture, and the moral sense of the community
must be intensely shocked at the amount of
corruption and private jobbing it develops.Now, how are these outrageous robberies to
be prevented? We believe we echo the pub-
lic sentiment—the sentiment of honest men,
of property holders and taxpayers—when we de-
clare that even this extraordinary expenditure
for educational purposes would be cheerfully
submitted to were it applied properly and
righteously. But it is notorious that it is not;
and the assertion is capable of substantiation
that of the sum yearly appropriated at least
one-half goes into the pockets of jobbers and
hangers-on and thieving politicians.But it is not upon the Educational fund alone
that these harpies prey. There is not an appor-
tion before the Legislature for any public
nor for many private objects upon which these
leeches do not fasten their greedy jaws. The
Tammany ring is the great mammoth leech of
all. It is never satiated. It might be gluttoned
to bursting, but can never be made to dis-
gorge. It wields supreme power at Albany.as it were, by the crack of a whip or the snap
of a finger.